

Application Serial No.: 10/664,920
Reply to the Advisory Action dated August 30, 2005, and
the Official Action dated June 22, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-17 are presently active in this case, Claims 3-17 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Withdrawn Claims 18-41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Care has been taken such that no new matter has been entered.

The Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments set forth herein as they are believed to merely correct minor informalities and place the application into condition for allowance or better condition for appeal. The Applicants note that the amendments to Claims 3-17 are the same as those presented in the Amendment After Final filed on August 16, 2005, since those amendments were not entered.

Claims 3-17 were indicated as being allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 3-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended as suggested in the Official Action. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

Since the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is overcome for the reasons discussed above, Claims 3-17 are in condition for allowance.

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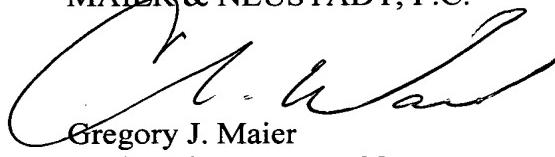
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,573). Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

The Applicants want to thank Primary Examiner Garber for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher Ward, during the personal interview recently conducted.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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